# Citrix XenServer

Virtualization, automation and advanced management tools for the datacenter

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The legacy model of one physical server to one application has proven costly, cumbersome and inefficient – and the virtualization of IT assets is fast becoming the standard at most organizations. However, while virtualization enables you to dramatically improve operations and do more with less, the high entry price of other virtualization technologies has become prohibitive for many organizations. Citrix® XenServer® breaks this standoff by providing customers with a production-ready virtualization platform for free.

## Citrix XenServer

XenServer is an enterprise-class, cloud-proven server virtualization solution that radically reduces datacenter costs by transforming static and complex IT environments into more dynamic, easy-to-manage virtual datacenters. It provides advanced management capabilities to integrate and automate virtual datacenters at a fraction of the cost of other solutions.

XenServer is a complete virtual infrastructure solution that includes a 64-bit hypervisor, an intuitive virtualization management console, live migration capabilities, and the tools necessary to convert existing workloads from a physical to virtual environment. XenServer allows organizations to create and manage unlimited servers and virtual machines (VMs) that can be run safely and securely from a single management console. Customers that need additional management, availability, integration or automation capabilities can simply upgrade to a premium edition of XenServer to create an enhanced virtual datacenter. The Advanced, Enterprise and Platinum Editions of XenServer offer rich management and automation capabilities that provide full datacenter automation, advanced integration and management, and key performance optimization features.

Based on the open-source design of Xen, XenServer is a highly reliable, available and secure virtualization platform that provides near native application performance and unmatched virtual machine density. XenServer allows for easy server, storage and network setup via an intuitive, wizard-driven utility that delivers *Ten Minutes to Xen*.

With XenServer, customers can create a high-performance, scalable, manageable and flexible virtual server infrastructure on top of which automated, lights out and cloud ready virtual datacenter services can be delivered. Key features of the XenServer solution include:

### Citrix XenCenter management console
Citrix® XenCenter® provides all VM monitoring, management and general administration functions in a single interface that allows the IT staff to easily manage hundreds of VMs from a centralized, highly available management console that installs on any Windows® desktop.

### Distributed virtual switching
XenServer includes the tools necessary to create a multi-tenant, isolated and extremely flexible virtual network fabric. This policy-driven fabric ensures that a VMs network configuration follows the VM as it is migrated within a resource pool. Policies are defined at the virtual network level guaranteeing that network security requirements are met regardless of guest VM configurations.

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### SAP

❝We expect that total costs for server infrastructure will be reduced by more than 35 percent because of XenServer. In the future, we will need some 70 percent fewer physical servers. In addition, we will save on administration and energy costs.❞

Michael Markl,
Global Service Owner,
SAP IT Infrastructure
Communication Services,
SAP AG

### WEC Health Unit

❝We tried VMware first… but when we benchmarked VMware vs. Citrix, the XenServer actually performed significantly better than the VMware solution, and we ended up, from that, going the direction of choosing Citrix as our virtualization platform for our servers…❞

Fernando Bayuga Jr.,
IT Manager, WEC Health Unit

## Dynamic workload balancing

XenServer improves system utilization and increases application performance by automatically balancing virtual machines based on user-defined policy within a resource pool both for initial placement and ongoing operations.

## High availability

XenServer automatically moves and restarts virtual machines if a failure occurs at the VM, hypervisor or server level. The auto-restart capability allows administrators to protect all virtualized applications and bring higher levels of availability to the business.

## Host power management

XenServer takes advantage of embedded hardware features to dynamically reallocate VMs and powers on and off hosts as demand for resources fluctuate.

## Disaster recovery

XenServer includes disaster recovery features that provide site-to-site disaster recovery planning and services for virtual environments. These features are easy to set up, fast to recover and have the ability to frequently test plans to ensure that they always remain valid.

## IntelliCache

XenServer is able to utilize local storage as a repository for boot images and non-persistent or temporary data to decrease network storage volume and traffic for XenDesktop installations.

## Memory optimization

XenServer reduces costs and improves application performance and protection by sharing unused server memory between VMs on the host server.

## Provisioning services

Citrix Provisioning Services™ reduces storage requirements by creating a set of golden images that can be streamed to both physical and virtual servers for fast, consistent and reliable deployments.

## Role-based administration

Role-based administration for XenServer improves security and enables delegated access, control and usage of resource pools by maintaining a tiered access structure with varying levels of permissions.

## Citrix StorageLink

Citrix® StorageLink™ provides integration with leading network storage platforms which enables storage managers to leverage existing data management tools to maintain consistent management processes for both physical and virtual environments.

## VM protection and recovery

XenServer protects against data loss in case of VM failure by automatically taking regularly scheduled VM snapshots and archiving the images in a specified storage location.

### Linux Magazine

"Does XenServer pass the 'first impression' test? Yes. It offers speed, flexibility, scalability, ease of use, and a price that will make your accountant grin."

Ken Hess,
Linux Magazine

### Enterprise Strategy Group

"Anyone who dismissed XenServer in the past as a legitimate player in the enterprise virtualization space clearly owes it to themselves to take a look at this offering."

Mark Bowker,
Enterprise Strategy Group

## Web console with delegated admin

Web self-service provides IT administrators with a simple web-based console to delegate individual VM rights to application owners as well as a way for application owners to manage day to day operations of their VMs.

## Citrix XenConvert

Citrix XenConvert allows for faster setup and migration of physical and virtual servers (P2V and V2V) making the transformation to XenServer nearly instantaneous.

## Citrix XenMotion

Citrix® XenMotion® eliminates the need for planned downtime by enabling active VMs to be moved to a new host with no application outages or downtime.

## vApps

A vApp is a collection of one or more virtual machines representing an application. The vApp combines these virtual machines into a virtual appliance. Virtual appliances can be managed as a unit in XenCenter, and can contain critical configuration information such as VM startup sequencing. A vApp can be assigned to a high availability configuration, and directly included in disaster recovery planning through Integrated Site Recovery.